

MEETING OF THE CITY OF RUSHVILLE, INDIANA COMMON COUNCIL

APRIL 7, 2020

6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: The Common Council of the City of Rushville met on the above date and time at 330 North Main Street, Suite 200, Rushville Indiana. Mayor Pavey called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: The Pledge to the Flag was recited by those present.

PRAYER: Councilman Berkemeier led those present in prayer.

ROLL CALL: Bob Bridges, Brad Berkemeier, Elton Marzon, Mike Daubenspeck, and Aaron Gurley answered roll call. Megan Bradley was not present. City Attorney, Tracy Newhouse was present via ZOOM.

PUBLIC HEARING: Yazel Annexation 831 W 1st Street – Mayor Pavey opened the public hearing regarding annexation for 831 West 1st Street. Newhouse said this annexation is 100% voluntary. There were no questions or comments. Gurley moved to close the public hearing. Berkemeier seconded the motion. The public hearing was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING: Ordinance 2020-7 Establishing Trash Fee – Mayor Pavey opened the public hearing regarding establishing a trash fee. Pavey explained that this was a follow up to the 2011 study that was done by Umbaugh. This study showed a range for a fee of \$11.00-\$12.00. Since then rising cost has hurt the City's general fund. Baker Tilly updated the study from 2011 which would indicate a fee range of \$19.00-\$20.00. Pavey said we all see this as a necessary evil. Our financial advisor suggested an implementation of June 1. With the pandemic before us, this makes for an unfortunate circumstance. It limits us to have public gatherings for discussion. However we are trying to be responsible. We have established this e-mail for our citizens to make comment: citizenfeedback@cityofrushville.in.gov they may also call 765-932-3735 and speak to Carla. Regular mail will also be accepted. However, we would urge the citizens to send their comments and questions through the email so we can make this a part of the public record. Pavey said this has not been entered into lightly it has been going on for 9 years, wearing on all of us.

Marzon suggested preparing a news release. Gurley said we want to make sure everyone has the opportunity for feedback.

Pavey said the e-mail will be good behavior for future complaints. It will gather the information to a central location. He urged everyone to encourage going to the email so things get

documented. The Mayor will try to get something on the radio. The public hearing will remain open until the first meeting in May giving citizens ample time to comment or ask questions.

MINUTES: Bridges moved to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2020, and March 18, 2020 meetings as presented. Marzon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Pavey reported the following:

1. We have been awarded 2 grants via INDOT. One is a sign grant for \$600,000.00 with this we will enter all signage into the GIS System. It will spread out over 5 years. We have also been awarded funding for the Morgan Street Trail. This will connect us with a trail from the north side of town to the south side of Riverside Park. It is approximately for \$1.2million.
2. We were notified that we will be receiving \$713,025.00 through the CCMG matching grant. This will let us do the next portion of 8th Street, replace the culvert on Tony Stewart Drive, and mill and resurface 4th Street.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT: Copley reported that she received notice that the additional appropriation that we submitted was approved by the DLGF.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Sheehan Update** – Next meeting.
- **Stellar Designation** – We have received some concerns regarding the construction on Morgan Street and the virus. Pavey said the workers are under INDOT's orders to work, not the City. It does seem to be good timing with businesses being closed.
- **Amphitheater/Park Board** – The 2 concerts scheduled for June have been moved due to the Coronavirus.
- **APC/BZA** – Projects are moving forward. We are continuing to do business and to be as strong as we can.
- **Housing** – Work on the apartments up north is continuing.
- **ECDC** – The ECDC is making a huge pivot just like we all are.
- **Cherry Street** – We are close to being through the Court process.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Street – Commissioner Miller reported that they are cutting trees down at the dump. They have been hauling dirt for the 8th Street project.

Miller said they are not hauling dirt, stone, or picking up yard waste at this time. Garbage pickup is currently very heavy.

Fire – Chief Munson said they have had 5 people possibly exposed to Covid 19. One employee missed 2 shifts. We are checking everyone each day for symptoms. The medics are required to wear PPE on all medical runs. We have cancelled our annual physicals for this month.

Animal – A report was emailed to Council. The numbers are down.

Police – Chief Tucker email his monthly statistics report. Due to the Coronavirus the dispatchers are asking a series of questions before dispatching officers to a call so they know what they are going into.

Park – They will be putting in the frame for the new adult swing. The labyrinth will be delivered at the end of the month. The fitness equipment should be delivered in a few weeks. The entire fitness project was funded by fundraising.

We received a grant from OCRA for a shade structure for the pool. We are having discussion regarding the possibility of not opening the pool this year due to the virus. We will discuss this with the health department tomorrow.

CITIZEN CONCERNS/COMMENTS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Street Light Project** – Three locations are outstanding. No one is opposed.
2. **Property Annexation** - Ordinance 2020-9 for the Yazel annexation will be up for approval at the next meeting. Daubenspeck moved to approve Ordinance 2020-5 for the Duke Annexation. Gurley seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. **Ordinance 2020-8 Downtown Parking Amendment** – Not completed.
4. **Rushville Property Revitalization Program** - We are running these 2 properties through the process with ARA.
 - a. 1900 N Main – We will delay for 30 days.
 - b. Henderson Road Farm Sale – should be ready to accept bids by May 19th.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution 2020-18 Tax Anticipation Warrant** – We are working through with this with the attorney and Baker Tilly in case we need it.
2. **Ordinance 2020-7 Trash Fee/Rates** – This ordinance has been introduced.
3. **Ordinance 2020-13 Amending Chapter 51 Garbage (Trash Fee)** - This will amend Chapter 51.

4. **Ordinance 2020-14 Chapter 54 (Trash Fee) Establish Chapter 54 Priority of Utility Payments-** This Ordinance will state what payment (trash, water, or wastewater) has priority.
5. **Resolution 2020-19 Disaster/Emergency Declaration** – Daubenspeck moved to approve Resolution 2020-19. Berkemeier seconded the motion. Motion carried.
6. **County Ordinance 2020-5 Extending Restrictions due to Coronavirus/Covid 19** – Mayor Pavey presented copy of what was agreed to with the County.
7. **City/County Resolution 2020-6 Extending a Public Health Emergency Exercising Emergency Powers** – A copy was also presented for review as to what was agreed between the City and County.
8. **Coronavirus (Covid-19) Update** – Mayor Pavey stating this is moving very fast and fluid. The City and County has set up a task force to keep everyone informed. Pavey said he is very pleased with the cooperation from everybody. We currently have 14 cases in Rush County with 1 death. We are performing as well as we can be compared to surrounding counties.

We also have implemented an economic task force due to a large number of people facing unemployment. Our goal is to aid people and businesses.

Mayor Pavey said this has caused our departments to change some of the ways they are doing things, but also keeping things moving along. No employees are taking advantage of the situation. We are being flexible in an undesirable situation.

CLAIMS: Gurley moved to approve the claims as presented. Marzon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ITEMS NOT KNOWN IN ADVANCE: Council was asked to vote for their top 3 people to be appointed for the 501C 3. Pavey will send out a ballot.

ADJOURN: There was no further business to come before Council; Berkemeier moved to adjourn. Daubenspeck seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.